THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Govt. of Punjab and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Basmati rice

1186. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Basmati rice grown in Punjab is knowns for its rich aroma and has high export potential; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to encourage its cultivation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) High yielding varieties and package of practices for maximising yield are being developed at Kapurthala, Pantnagar and Indian Agriculture Research Institutes New Delhi so that cultivation of Basmati Rice becomes economically more viable.

Procurement of Oilseeds

1187. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1985-86, Government had announced a long term policy for the procurement of oilseeds;

(b) if so, whether any purchases have been made under this scheme in Punjab so far; and

(c) if so, the quantity and the value thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Government designated National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) as the Nodal Agency for undertaking price support operations in respect of oilseeds for a period of 5 years beginning from 1985-86.

(b) and (c) NAFED as the Central Nodal Agency for undertaking purchases at the support prices announced by the Government of India, purchased 96 MTs of Mustard seed and 2.3 MTs of Sunflower seed during 1985-86 and 1986-87 respectively in Punjab. However, the prices of oilseeds of the prescribes grade specifications in other years remained above the announced price level and therefore, no support purchases were made.

Proposal for augmenting water supply Scheme in Shimla

1188. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for augmenting the Shimla Water Supply Scheme has been submitted to the Central Government by the Himachal Government; and

(b) what action has been taken by Government on the proposed scheme and the expected time for the commencement of work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Himachal Pradesh has been advised to prepare a detailed feasibility report for technical clearance by the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation in this Ministry. The State Government has also been asked to indicate the annual phasing of the project and